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GOVERNOR'S OFFICE ON SERVICE AND VOLUNTEERISM UNVEILS CIVIC SERVICE STUDY

California's Seniors Want to Stay Involved with Youth

SACRAMENTO - The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) has released *The Giving Years: Engaging the Time, Talent and Experience of Older Californians in Intergenerational Service*, a report developed in response to legislation (AB2558) authored by former Assemblymember and Speaker Robert Hertzberg. *The Giving Years* paints a hopeful and compelling picture of the unprecedented civic resource represented by our most experienced Californians. In addition, GO SERV has released *The California Assessment of Seniors and Service* that provides more in-depth data describing the high level of interest of older Californians in service and what it will take to turn that interest into action.

According to research conducted by GO SERV, older Californians are seeking a different kind of retirement: 45% of those surveyed said that they wanted to "learn new skills;" 37% stated they wanted to "set new goals and pursue new challenges;" and only 13% said they wanted to "take it easy" during retirement.

"Our research clearly indicates that retirees want to be actively engaged in volunteer opportunities that make a real difference. The volunteer roles of most interest to older Californians are those that can have the greatest impact on success of California school children," said David Muraki, Interim Executive Director of GO SERV. 39% are interested in "reading with children" and over 30% want to teach, tutor, or be a mentor. 46% of Californians age 50 and over are prepared to volunteer a minimum of 2-4 hours per week.

Today's seniors are unique - they are healthier, better educated and live longer than generations past. During their retirement years, research shows that seniors are both willing and extraordinarily able to continue contributing to their communities. Numerous studies have also shown that seniors who volunteer live longer and healthier lives. Every child who needs the help of a volunteer could receive that help such is the magnitude of the resource of older Californians.

These reports can be downloaded off the GO SERV website at www.goserv.ca.gov.

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